

February 29, 2012

To: Members of the Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Rural Affairs  
From: Senator Glenn Grothman  
Re: Senate Bill 489

I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 489. Under current law, barbers and cosmetologists are under the same license and are held to the same regulations and licensure requirements. This comes at a great burden to barbers. Barbers do not perform the same function as cosmetologists. Local barbers are subject to burdensome continuing education that does not relate to their field.

Many barbers tell me that they are unable to attract other people to the profession. Their reasons include, but are not limited to, excessive education requirements, unnecessary continuing education, and problems with an examining board that cannot relate to the professional.

**SB 489 does the following:**

- Creates two separate licenses for barbering and cosmetology.
- Creates two separate boards to regulate the practice of barbering and cosmetology.
- Barbers have no continuing education requirements.
- Licensees may apply for a license classified as inactive, under which they cannot practice, unless active status is restored.
  - Inactive licensees are not required to take continuing education and pay one-half the usual renewal fee for the license.
- A licensed barbering school may only offer instruction in barbering.
- A licensed cosmetology school may offer instruction in barbering, cosmetology, aesthetics, manicuring and electrology.
- Licensed barbering instructors may only provide instruction in barbering.
- Licensed cosmetology instructors may provide instruction in barbering, cosmetology, aesthetics and manicuring.

This bill will open the potential for barbering jobs in this state and will bring the state in line with our surrounding states. Illinois, Michigan and Minnesota require no continuing education for barbers and Illinois also has two separate licenses for barbering and cosmetology.

To: Members of the Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Rural Affairs

RE: SB 489

My name is Carol Ihlenfeld, and I am one of thousands of cosmetologist that continues to pay the state of Wisconsin every two years to keep up my license. Why would do we continue to do that?

Simple, because after years of working with professional grade products it is not possible to go to drug store products to use for our hair.

I would guess that over half of the cosmetologists holding licenses are actually not working, especially the boomers. If we are going to be required to take the ongoing training many of us may be forced to not renew our licenses because of the expense.

I know that attorneys have a two tier program and my question is why can't we?

A two level system would allow retired cosmetologist to continue to purchase the products we have always worked with.

Maybe a better way to title them would be level A for those actually working in a salon and that would be at the current fee.

Level B would be for those who are no longer actively working in a salon but need a current license to go to a SUPPLY HOUSE THAT WILL ONLY SELL TO A COSMETOLOGHIST THAH HOLDS A CURRENT LICENSE. SO THE LICENSE MUST READ THAT WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO GO TO A BEAUTY SUPPLY HOUSE THAT ONLY SELLS TO LICENSED COSMETOLOGIST. The B license should cost less but if we wanted to work again in a salon we should be able to up grade to an A class license without any problem.

I also feel that the board needs to take a better look at the educational information they send to us. I was EXTREMELY OFFENDED AT THE MATERIAL I WAS FORCED TO READ ABOUT THE PROPER WAY TO BUY PUT ON AND TAKE OFF A CONDOM What that has to do with hair ?

I have held my license for over 40 years and I found that the information about sanitation has not changed in that time. There are new products that can be purchased and the funny part was at the end of the section they said if nothing else just use BLEACH.

If the department spent more time looking into complaints and maybe going to salons and working with the managers to make sure that they comply there would be no need for the on going classes. To be honest everyone I spoke to thought it was a joke and that it was a waste of their time and MONEY.

Cosmetologists do not make six figures. When they have to spend money on classes and take time off of work they make no money. They only get paid when they actually do a head of hair. To keep up with industry trends and new products all they have to do is have a manufacturer come in and do a class and it is free.

Finally when I attended the hearing I was FLOORED when the attorney for the board spoke. When she asked me where I got my misinformation from and I told her from her people she did not even apologize. In my humble opinion she put her foot in her mouth.

I am not only thanking you, but all of the cosmetologists like me who are not currently working in the industry THANK YOU as well.

I know that it takes a lot to write a bill but trust me thousands of cosmetologist are extremely thankful that you have taken the time and the expense to right a wrong.

Sincerely,

Carol Ihlenfeld  
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Grafton, WI 533024

I want to say THANK YOU Senator Grotham for all of your hard work.